

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199
Federal Market News Service
21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224
Yakima, WA 98902
Phone: 509-575-2494 FAX: 509-457-7132

Number 6

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2002
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

CALIFORNIA	- Clover, white, 95¢
	- Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, 85 - 87¢ (old crop)
	- Mixed Citrus/Flowers, white & extra light amber, 91¢ (small lot)
	- Orange Blossom, extra white, 96¢ (small lot)
	- Orange Blossom, white, 95¢ - \$1.00
	- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, 93¢ (small lot)
FLORIDA	- Brazilian Pepper, color not reported, 89¢
	- Floral not reported, white, 92¢
	- Gallberry, white & extra light amber, 83 - 90¢
	- Orange Blossom, white & extra light amber, 83 - 90¢
	- Saw Palmetto, white & extra light amber, 83 - 90¢
MICHIGAN	- Floral not reported, extra light amber, 94¢
MINNESOTA	- Floral not reported. White, 97¢ - \$1.00
MONTANA	- Alfalfa, white, 94¢
	- Clover, white, \$1.00
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, 94¢
WASHINGTON	- Mixed Flowers, white, 95¢
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.00

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

- Clover, white, 97 1/5¢

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....MEXICO	- Mixed Flowers, light amber,	93¢
MEXICO	- Orange, color not reported,	87¢
URUGUAY	- Mixed Flowers, light amber,	96¢
VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber,	89¢

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JUNE

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) . . .

Beekeepers have reported mixed reactions to the late spring honey production, which ranged from good to fair due mostly to the sporadic weather patterns and heavy swarming. The early spring flow was reported to be good. The mid-May freeze resulted in a loss of bloom on some poplar and locust in certain areas and slowed growth on other trees, which resulted in poor honey production in those hardest hit areas. There are a few reports of colonies not producing much honey due to the lack of a queen due to excessive swarming. Swarming, for the most part, is over. Colonies are in fairly good health with little disease or mite problems being reported. So far this season, Varroa mite levels are down and are similar to last years light levels although there was an occasional report of Varroa Mite resistance to chemical treatment in this area this year. The area is still experiencing a severe drought. Nectar sources during June and at present include clover, sumac, basswood, sourwood, peppermint and various wildflowers.

CALIFORNIA . . .

June began with record high temperatures on the 5th & 6th in several locations across the state. Paso Robles, along the central coast reached 106 & 105 degrees while Lancaster, in the southeast, recorded 102 & 107 degrees. The desert reached over 120 degrees on the 6th. The hot, dry conditions were ideal for several brush fires. West of Los Angeles, over 23,000 acres were burned and in Northern California, winds fanned a 1,000 acre fire that forced homes to be evacuated. A break came on the 12th when a low pressure system brought significant cooler temperatures to Northern California for the remainder of June. Daytime highs were only in the 80's. July-June rainfall records includes 4.42" or 29% of normal in downtown Los Angeles and 3.02" in Dan Diego or 28% of normal. Palm Springs has only received .41" or 8% of normal.

The heat seems to have little effect on the condition of the bees but it was noted they frequently brought in more water than nectar. Some feeding was being done in colonies set in the valleys while those sitting in mountains did better. Some bees were still doing seed pollination in the squash, melons, alfalfa seed and cotton. A big crop of sunflowers is also available this year. Alfalfa seed acreage continues to decline as an over supply was grown the previous few years and is till in storage. Producers are expecting a pretty poor honey crop this year.

Packers report they are getting calls from beekeepers that have mostly orange honey for sale now/ Other producers that have their bees sitting on irrigated crops such as alfalfa and cotton, are also trying to line up contracts with packers so they know they have a buyer when the crop is extracted.

Beekeeping supply stores report their business is very slow as because producers don't buy supplies when it's very hot and dry. Some companies were even shutting down some of the dates.

COLORADO . . .

Drought conditions continued for all of the state throughout the month. All areas of Colorado are reporting below average moisture for the year. This has resulted in fires throughout the state that have burned more than 300,000 acres. Conditions in the state are very delicate at this time. Most beekeepers report that their colonies are working the summer crops and alfalfa fields. Because of the extreme dry conditions, most beekeepers expect honey production to be way down. Some migratory colonies were sent to other states until the weather conditions improved.

IDAHO . . .

Temperatures and moisture in the first part of the month were very favorable for pollinating. As for the later part of the month, temperatures rose into the high eighties to low nineties. But due to the early favorable weather most beekeepers have supers in place and should be extracting in one to two weeks. Honey movement was moderate on both the wholesale and retail levels.

ILLINOIS . . .

Beekeepers reported a below average buildup for the month. Cool temperatures and surplus rainfall limited collection by the bees. By late in the month, temperatures had returned to about normal. Much of the honey crop is expected to be light color. The sampling of honey from honeybee hives was reported to have high moisture content due to the hot, humid weather and quality was excellent. Honeybees have been working sweet and Dutch clover as well as floral sources of day lilies, dandelion, and several varieties of wild flowers.

The state Apiary Inspector reported very little problems with Mites and the Small Hive Beetle. Colonies were generally strong and collection conditions were good the last of the month.

Retail honey sales were good as demand improved. Bulk honey picked up over the month.

INDIANA . . .

Bees were in good condition although rainfall was above normal for most of the state. Bees were feeding on mostly yellow and white clover with stores coming into the hive much slower than normal. Most of the early honey was light in color and had very high moisture content. No beekeepers reported a heavy flow due to weather and cooler than normal temperatures earlier in the season. The floral sources and berry bloom have been disappointing.

Wholesale and retail honey sales were reported good. Demand was better than normal for this time of the year. Honey stores were reported good and early extraction was expected the first week of July.

MISSOURI & IOWA . . .

Precipitation was below normal in both States. Temperatures averaged about normal in both Iowa & Missouri.

Beekeepers are starting move hives from tree pollination to control swarming. There are bees in the fields for melon pollination in Southeast Missouri & Northeast Arkansas.

Honey flow from white Dutch clover & sweet clover was very good. Some nectar should have been gathered from alfalfa. Honey has been extracted and some comb honey was put up for retail. Bees are working yellow or white sweet clover depending on how far north.

MONTANA . . .

Winter wasn't quite done in part of Montana as Bozeman set a daily-record low of 33 degrees on the 16th. The next two weeks were near normal with highs in the 80's and lows in the mid-30's to low 40's. Much needed rainfall was also reported across the state with most areas receiving 1-2". Summer finally arrived the last week of June when most locations saw daytime highs in the 90's but there were several parts of the state that broke the 100-degree mark. Rainshowers were also noted, mostly in the southeastern corner. Rainfall from the 1-13th totaled 4.65" in Cut Bank; 4.53" in Great Falls; 3.80" in Havre and 3.60" in Helena, representing more than 30% of the locations' normal annual totals. Cut Bank's June 8-10 total, 4.29", eclipsed their previous 3-day record while Great Falls netted 2.24" on the 10th, which was their highest 1-day total since 1980.

MONTANA, CONTINUED . . .

The bees are reported to be in good condition but down a little in size because they weren't able to build-up normally during April and May due to the cold weather. The bees were bringing in nectar from alfalfa, clover and numerous wildflowers.

NEW ENGLAND * * *

June began with below normal temperatures and above average precipitation for much of New England. By the middle of the month temperatures were seasonable with highs in the mid to upper 80s. A maximum high of 93 degrees was reached on June 26.

Beekeepers across New England report mixed results depending on location. Southern and coastal beekeepers report better activity with Cranberry pollination in full swing. Northern and western keepers are still dealing with the larger than normal bear population. Many hives have been destroyed in these areas with some operations at a total loss.

Demand is still very strong for honey with beekeepers reporting better movement than last year at this time.

NORTH CAROLINA . . .

To add to the drought situation in North Carolina, the hot, dry weather that has been received over the past 6-8 weeks has created extreme drought conditions for this time of year. Some areas of North Carolina are imposing mandatory water restrictions. This is the first time in more than 20 years that some of these areas have come under water restrictions.

Even with this in mind, colonies continue to remain in generally good condition. Beekeepers continue checking the mite situation. The honeybees have become resistant to some of the chemicals traditionally used to treat the mites, however, a change in chemicals continues to be successful in controlling the situation. Bees are now working the Sourwood and Sumac in the Piedmont and beginning Sourwood in the western part of the state.

OREGON . . .

The first three weeks of June were fairly cool with thunderstorms that provided higher than normal precipitation. On the 19th, Klamath Falls dipped to a record low of 33 degrees and Burns recorded 26 degrees. Conditions heated up the last of the month when daytime highs rose into the 80's and 90's inland with John Day hitting 101 degrees on the 26th. The Willamette valley and along the coast had temperatures mostly in the 60's and 70's. The heat subsided briefly on the 28th when beneficial showers dampened several areas including 101" in Astoria and .91" in Portland.

The bees are reported to be in excellent condition with no feeding necessary as they were busy pollinating caneberries and vine crops such as squash, pumpkins and misc. melons. Maple trees and clover were also blooming and the occasional rains sustained the bloom. The honey crop is expected to be a little later than normal because of the cool, wet spring. Some swarming was reported but most of the bees that were collected were ferrel bees not honey bees. Producers were beginning to negotiate contracts for their honey crop at significantly higher prices than last year.

UTAH . . .

The extremely dry conditions persist in Utah making conditions less than adequate for honey production. However some producers say they do have supers in place and will be extracting in the next couple of weeks. Honey movement was moderate on both the wholesale and retail markets.

WASHINGTON . . .

Crop development was delayed in Western Washington because of cool temperatures and rainshowers the first week of June while Eastern Washington had mostly highs in the 80's. On the 12th & 13th, several locations broke records when Olympia climbed to 86 & 94 degrees and Seattle recorded 94 degrees on the 13th. The remainder of the month alternated from occasional showers and cool temperatures to hot, windy weather that began to dry out some crops in Eastern Washington. An occasional record high was noted the end of the month

WASHINGTON, CONTINUED . . .

when temperatures hit the 100 degree mark in the Yakima Valley. Adequate snowpack in the mountains along with frequent showers are providing more than enough irrigation water this summer.

Migratory beekeepers hauled their colonies to North and South Dakota where they finally received some rain the end of June which should help the clover crop.

WISCONSIN . . .

Surplus rainfall continued throughout the month over most of the state. Hail damage was reported in Chippewa County on some crops which particularly damaging the bloom. Northern sections of the state had crops yellowing due to excessive rainfall. The state Apiary Inspector reported small hive beetle larvae was detected in Winnebago County. Approximately one hundred larvae were discovered on old honey frames left from dead colonies. It is believed the infested hives had been shipped into Wisconsin from Florida early part of the month.

Many of the floral sources were limited due to cool weather and frequent rainfall. Wholesale honey sales had picked up as retail demand was good.

Bulk honey sales were good during the month.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
<hr/>				
HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	2,196	2,880	2,196	2,880
Cayman Islands	1,500	3,480	1,500	3,480
N. Antilles	1,189	3,870	1,189	3,870
Netherlands	---	---	1,843	9,202
Germany	---	---	11,322	21,996
Kuwait	---	---	49,987	108,897
Saudi Arabia	16,667	33,027	7,799	176,876
Arab Emirates	---	---	17,217	48,120
Yemen	44,536	100,960	107,339	254,340
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Philippines	11,211	2,514	68,675	120,125
China	---	---	1,905	5,505
Korean Republic	26,871	35,247	147,857	193,947
Taiwan	---	---	4,150	6,892
Japan	---	---	81,745	194,652
<hr/>				
TOTAL	104,170	181,978	611,574	1,167,534
<hr/>				
HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Canada	53,847	106,357	157,670	320,615
Mexico	---	---	10,305	13,516
Costa Rica	---	---	4,898	9,720
Bermuda	965	2,983	965	2,983
Guadalupe	---	---	3,018	8,233
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
United Kingdom	76,508	169,865	76,508	169,865
Ireland	287	3,138	287	3,138
France	---	---	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Spain	1,996	5,808	1,996	5,808
Yemen	---	---	41,071	91,876
Thailand	---	---	16,329	37,440
Malaysia	16,329	37,440	16,329	37,440
Singapore	996	4,559	17,506	52,265
Indonesia	---	---	28,032	73,248
Philippines	---	---	18,724	39,345
China	---	---	28,197	42,741
Korean Republic	7,669	27,204	12,269	45,952
Japan	---	---	37,951	70,433
Australia	13,426	30,000	13,426	30,000
<hr/>				
TOTAL	172,023	387,354	516,032	1,103,108
<hr/>				
HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE				
Canada	11,956	18,655	13,099	21,739
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
Japan	---	---	597	3,300
<hr/>				
TOTAL	11,956	18,656	24,536	35,285
<hr/>				

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	A P R I L 2 0 0 2			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 2		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Canada	1,641,324	2,993,040	3,030,716	5,649,255	9,579,867	9,665,441
Mexico	---	---	---	58,491	82,060	86,037
Chile	174,133	268,093	277,924	555,967	811,670	851,355
Brazil	113,132	141,659	153,977	305,960	411,209	440,449
Argentina	584,066	703,492	748,709	1,149,183	1,307,173	1,399,084
Denmark	13,365	30,793	32,593	13,365	30,793	32,593
United Kingdom	806	6,694	7,004	806	6,694	7,004
Czech Republic	---	---	---	17,104	23,096	24,761
Poland	960	3,492	3,717	960	3,492	3,717
India	182,730	234,455	278,180	275,730	356,905	400,923
Thailand	98,600	115,717	121,822	966,200	1,165,302	1,246,696
Vietnam	39,440	45,116	50,076	39,440	45,116	50,076
China, Mainland	176,610	187,360	206,795	1,492,797	1,563,877	1,704,055
TOTAL	3,025,166	4,729,911	4,911,513	10,525,338	1,538,254	1,591,191

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	92,794	151,348	151,773	346,784	543,743	546,183
Mexico	54,791	81,488	87,617	317,060	438,235	457,930
Chile	134,850	198,357	204,515	386,975	539,851	562,384
Brazil	98,582	141,668	149,962	137,582	193,242	203,834
Uruguay	99,301	155,226	161,037	429,717	612,692	629,995
Argentina	59,452	79,535	82,876	119,715	144,298	152,237
Greece	1,032	4,718	4,861	1,032	4,718	4,861
India	80,752	101,177	105,483	80,752	101,177	105,483
Thailand	333,000	387,052	427,113	1,575,140	1,843,425	2,026,151
Vietnam	---	---	---	817,800	911,137	973,185
China	---	---	---	967,102	963,855	1,065,847
Australia	78,880	95,015	101,755	78,880	95,015	101,755
TOTAL	1,033,434	1,395,584	1,476,992	5,258,539	6,391,388	6,829,845

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	43,609	85,479	84,122	102,823	183,239	184,874
Mexico	625,594	868,530	908,045	2,860,473	3,684,572	3,854,071
Guatemala	38,000	55,701	58,777	53,120	76,129	80,870
Peru	21,591	28,500	29,900	39,591	52,099	55,299
Chile	274,730	390,174	414,936	809,488	1,121,184	1,198,302
Brazil	126,555	164,843	175,207	450,650	564,352	606,285
Uruguay	897,403	1,457,279	1,519,546	3,315,743	4,791,022	5,019,283
France	---	---	---	411	2,031	2,212
Germany	29,573	47,334	53,653	39,715	68,513	75,332
Switzerland	---	---	---	18,850	24,310	25,624
Romania	---	---	---	19,000	24,514	24,516
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
India	403,560	495,256	559,806	535,320	660,870	741,820
Thailand	394,400	442,260	461,323	1,477,368	1,751,101	1,831,679
Vietnam	1,269,135	1,450,621	1,584,282	2,376,275	2,643,732	2,892,986
China	1,011,510	961,268	1,042,443	4,071,062	3,896,421	4,216,900

IMPORTS continued

Hong Kong	37,120	41,203	45,657	37,120	41,203	45,657
Taiwan	---	---	---	2,700	5,615	5,923
Australia	236,640	305,265	324,145	615,844	769,813	812,538
New Zealand	---	---	---	600	3,806	3,865

TOTAL	5,409,420	6,791,713	7,261,842	16,846,386	20,390,950	21,704,462
--------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	43,678	66,798	67,169	262,920	369,414	371,53566
Mexico	96,470	147,434	155,034	245,268	339,359	361,259
Dom. Republic	18,198	29,940	31,107	19,998	33,840	35,481
Brazil	---	---	---	77,800	93,909	103,305
Argentina	---	---	---	144,037	156,610	162,783
France	396	2,299	2,549	1,498	10,176	11,926
Switzerland	3,718	26,321	27,489	5,871	41,630	43,349
Italy	---	---	---	15,487	13,370	14,372
Greece	---	---	---	375	3,000	3,279
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
China	---	---	---	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	1,176	2,485	2,935	3,906	5,147	6,397
Taiwan	624	3,180	3,302	3,110	13,559	14,059
Australia	9,360	24,190	26,919	324,880	403,290	430,947

TOTAL	173,620	302,647	316,504	1,183,030	1,559,563	1,659,809
--------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	------------------	------------------
